

Issue 108: INSIDER'S EDGE: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Immigrants

Hey there, Insiders! Welcome back. This week, we're looking at a question from a reader.



Dear Marge,

Can you explain what DACA is? Are individuals with this status eligible for Medicaid or qualified health plan (QHP) coverage?

--Befuddled in Baltimore City

Thanks for your question, Befuddled. Some undocumented individuals who came to the United States as children have been granted temporary permission to stay in the country under a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). For most purposes, these individuals are considered lawfully present in the United States and can be granted work authorization and Social Security numbers.

However, things get a little tricky for this group when it comes to applying for coverage using Maryland Health Connection.

Individuals with DACA status are ***not*** eligible to apply for coverage using Maryland Health Connection. When it comes to getting health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), they are treated like undocumented immigrants. Individuals with DACA status are **not eligible for**:

- Medicaid;
- Advanced premium tax credits (APTC) or cost-sharing reductions (CSR);
- QHP coverage, *even if* they are willing to pay the full cost.

However, just like undocumented individuals, consumers with DACA status *are* eligible for emergency medical services, including labor and delivery services for pregnant women, if they meet the other Medicaid eligibility requirements (like income). These applications are processed by local departments of social services.

For additional information on DACA and the standards for qualifying, visit

<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions>.

Have a great weekend, Insiders! Interested in making an inquiry? Send your questions my way, dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.